administrative expenditure and absolve the responsibility of the nodal Ministries/Department; and

(c) what are the reasons for not strengthening the Department of Programme Implementation and Planning to undertake the job in a more efficient way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. the Government have proposed to get the impact assessment of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes for which evaluation has not been undertaken, done by Planning Commission or outside professional agencies within a specified time frame.

(b) The impact assessment of an on-going scheme may need to be done once in three-five years and the proportion of expenditure on evaluation study is likely to be very very small compared to the annual budget of a scheme. Moreover, the feed- back from quality evaluation is likely to more than off-set such expenses on studies through good governance and quality spending of public money.

(c) Strengthening of evaluation capacity of Departments is a continous process and the position is reviewed from time to time.

Development Plan for Orissa

297. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are preparing State-specific development plans to ensure improvement in social and economic quality of life as reported in the Indian Express dated the 25th January, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the blue print proposed to be prepared for development of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The primary responsibility for formulation of State-specific Development Plans lies with the concerned State Governments. However, in order to facilitate this process, the

Planning Commission has decided to prepare State Development Reports for States with a view to bring out credible research-based documents that would help State Governments to set out the strategies for accelerating the economic growth of the States. The Indian Express, New Delhi dated 25th January, 2003 has referred to the 'Report of the Committee on India Vision 2020'. This report is not specific to any State.

(c) The State Development Report for Orissa has been commissioned and the report is under preparation.

Direct funding of centrally sponsored schemes

298. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to lay down the norms for direct funding of Centrally sponsored schemes by-passing the various States/Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Development Council (NDC) has also worked out the modalities for the same to minimise cost and time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In the meeting of Chief Ministers held on 18th October, 2002 at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, there was a consensus that henceforth all releases under Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be made through the Consolidated Fund of the States and not directly to the project implementing agencies. It was also agreed that, as a pre-condition, the States will pass on the funds to the end-users within a stipulated time of three weeks, and inform the Administrative Ministry in the Government of India of having done so. Instructions have been issued accordingly by the Ministry of Finance.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.